

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 312479
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 IO-13 /048 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAGR, IZ

SUBJECT: USG GRAIN POLICY

REF: (A) BAGHDAD 1920, (B) STATE 267839

1. IRAQI OIL MINISTER TAYEH ABDUL KARIM IS TO BE CON-
GRATULATED ON HIS VIVID IMAGINATION. UNFORTUNATELY FOR
HIS IRRESPONSIBLE CHARGES THAT THE USG IS DUMPING GRAIN
IN THE SEA TO RAISE PRICES, THE MARKET FACTS REMAIN THAT
PRICES OF GRAINS HAVE FALLEN IN RECENT YEARS (SEE REF B).
MORE EXAMPLES ARE PROVIDED BELOW:

WHEAT: F.O.B. GULF PORTS, BUSHEL PRICES

-- 1974 DOLS 4.93
-- 1975 3.93
-- 1976 (AV) 4.02

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PAGE 02 STATE 312479

DEC. 1976 3.07

CORN: F.O.B. GULF PORTS, BUSHEL PRICES

-- 1974 DOLS 3.07
-- 1975 3.13

-- 1976 (AV) 2.96

DEC, 1976 2.40

RICE: F.O.B. HOUSTON, PRICES PER HUNDRED WEIGHT

-- 1974 DOLS 33.31

-- 1975 22.32

-- 1976 (AV) 17.33

DEC. 1976 14.75

2. THE USG TERMINATED ITS OWN GRAIN STORAGE PROGRAMS IN 1972. THIS MEANS THAT THE PRESENT GRAIN MARKETING SYSTEM IS IN PRIVATE HANDS, EXCEPT FOR SOME USG RICE HOLDINGS, AND TOTALLY MARKET ORIENTED. EVEN GRAIN WHICH THE USG SUPPLIES INTERNATIONALLY THROUGH PL-480 MUST BE PURCHASED UNDER MARKET CONDITIONS.
ROBINSON

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To: BAGHDAD
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